



BRANCHING OUT

NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Education, Public Schools Branch

Welcome back and a special welcome to our new colleagues! In the spring 2005 edition of *Branching Out*, I shared with you my excitement about *Learning for Life II: Brighter Futures Together*. That excitement hasn't waned one iota. The task of gearing up for year 1 implementation of this multi-year plan has kept the folks in the Public Schools Branch busy this summer. We are still acquiring staff to support the implementation—staff that has to hit the ground running. We all look forward to working with you and supporting you in making a difference for our students. Have a great 2005-06 school year!

- Mike Sweeney, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch

English 10 Plus Implementation Workshop

The English 10 Plus Implementation Workshop will be held at the Debert Hospitality Centre, October 20 and 21, 2005 for teachers from across the province. The workshop will familiarize English 10 Plus teachers with the curriculum document. English 10 Plus teachers received the following professional resources: *Lifers: Learning from At-Risk Adolescent Readers*, *Improving Comprehension With Think-Aloud Strategies*, *Thinking Through Genre: Units of Study in Reading and Writing Workshop 4-12*, and *Beyond Monet: The Artful Science of Instructional Integration*. Teachers of English 10 Plus also received student resources for classroom use: classroom sets of novels; 6-packs of novels for Literature Circles; and individual trade books for independent study.



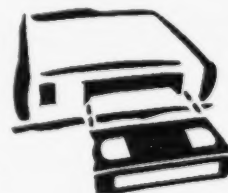
New Program from the Education Media Library

From Sheep to Woollens: Wool Processing in Gaelic Nova Scotia (V2598 17 min.).

Filmed in the Highland Village in Iona, this video demonstrates the development of wool processing from the simplest hand methods to early mechanization, with special attention to the Gaelic Scottish context of Cape Breton. This video would be useful from late elementary to high school as a curriculum support for units in pioneer life and Canadian history. For more information, or to order, please contact the Education Media Library at 424-2440 or lrt@ednet.ns.ca.

Important notice from the Education Media Library

From time to time the Media Library does not renew licenses for certain videos – provisions in our agreements with the distributors mean that we must erase the master copy and inform schools of their duty to remove copies in their school collections. **Please remove the following videos from your collection:** Math Moves (V1386 - V1391), Cellular Respiration (V0435), Organic Chemistry (V0437), Drama Reference Series (V1452-1463).



Writing Centre Resources Delivered to Grade 7 Classes

Student Writing Centres resources were distributed to all grade 7 classes in September. These resources comprise standard dictionaries; a rhyming dictionary; a dictionary of synonyms; antonyms, and homonyms; a science dictionary; a teen health dictionary; a math dictionary; thesauri; grammar and punctuation reference texts; a student handbook; and other writing-centred resources. English language arts teachers received these practical, writing-related resources: *Seven Steps to Successful Writing*, *Writing Anchors*, and *The Write Genre*.

writers
in
Action

Mathematics Home-School Communication Box Coming to Primary—6 Schools

The Mathematics Home-School Communication box contains letters, information, activities, and resources that will help teachers to increase their communication with homes. Watch for it coming to your school soon!



Wednesday, November 2, 2005 – Take Our Kids to Work (TOKW)

TOKW is an annual national project where grade 9 students are hosted by parents, relatives or volunteers at workplaces across Canada. Similar in its goals to Applications of Working And Learning (AWAL), the program supports career development by helping students connect school, the world of work and their own futures. Download the *Big Picture Introductory Webquest Activities* (http://www.awal.ca/files/BigPicture/Intro_Webquests-2-N.pdf) or *Going AWAL for a Day* (http://www.awal.ca/files/BigPicture/Beg_Student_AWAL-4-N.pdf) to help make the TOKW experience more meaningful for your Grade 9s, or provide related activities for learners in other grades.



EDnet webmail accounts unlock doors...

In addition to providing a way for teachers and students to communicate, EDnet webmail accounts provide

logins and passwords for the LifeWork Electronic Portfolio, the History11 website, the ImagesProject, and online curriculum documents. Teachers can get accounts for themselves and for any students who don't already have them through their school board technology contact.

The Integration of ICT in the Public School Program Revised

The revised "Integration of Information and Communication Technology within the Curriculum" is now available. The document contains Key-Stage Outcomes that outline expectations of students in five strands of technology use. Cut-and-paste versions of the document and outcomes are available online at <http://lrl.ednet.ns.ca> under Publications. One copy of the curriculum document for each teacher will be distributed through school boards. Posters of the outcomes have been sent to schools. For more information about integrating ICT into your classroom program, please visit <http://lrl.ednet.ns.ca>

Are You Being "Served"?

Several listservs have been created for teachers to share ideas, concerns, resources, and information. To join any of these listservs, email Peter Smith (smithps@gov.ns.ca), Youth Pathways and Transitions Consultant.

- *Multimedia* for teachers interested in Multimedia 12 (implementation 2006-2007) or other courses using multimedia technology
- *Film and Video* for teachers interested in Film and Video Production 12 or those who use film and video in other curricula
- *Geomatics* for teachers interested in Geomatics 12 (implementation 2006-2007), or in including geomatics in geography curricula
- *Media Literacy* for English language arts or social studies teachers and others interested in how the media are examined in schools
- *Computer Programming 12* for teachers interested in Computer Programming 12 (implemented 2005-2006)
- *Business Teachers* for teachers of business-related courses
- *Tourism* for teachers of Tourism 11 and those interested in Tourism 12 (implementation 2006-2007)
- *LifeWork* for teachers interested in the LifeWork Portfolio online project

Provincial Inservice for African Canadian Studies 11/Mi'kmaw Studies 10 Teachers

Teachers from around the province attended a provincial inservice on October 6 and 7, 2005 at the Dartmouth Teachers Centre. Sessions focussed on sharing resources and strategies for teaching these courses.



Reading Workshop now available on DVD

This series examines the Department of Education's integrated literacy strategy for grades 4-9. Each segment demonstrates a Reading Workshop technique through unrehearsed, actual classroom activity in four Nova Scotia schools and features interviews with the teachers involved: Literature Circles, Guided Reading, Read Aloud/Think Aloud, Shared Reading, Independent Reading, Reflection, and Planning for Reading Workshops. For more information, contact your Board PD leader.



Making It Count: A Fresh Look at Instructional Time

Education professionals know that the amount of instructional time and the ways it is used are directly related to student achievement. At the Education Partners' Forum in February 2005, stakeholders said they wanted the best use made of available instructional time, and we incorporated this for 2005-06 in *Learning for Life II: Brighter Futures Together*. An interim policy on use of instructional time was finalized with input from school boards and has now been released to schools. Check online at <http://ednet.ns.ca> to see the interim policy, which applies to all schools this year. Areas covered in the policy include

- **Target Hours of Instruction:** 720 hours of instructional time this school year for grades P-2, and 900 hours for all other grades (includes recess in grades P-6 only).
- **Curricular Activities**, including field trips, should be clearly linked to achievement of curriculum outcomes. There is no time standard or limitation for such activities this year.
- **Non-Curricular Activities** including school or class trips (not including situations where individual students are out of school by parent request), and activities not directly linked to curriculum outcomes are limited this year to 3 school days.
- If there are enough **School Closure Days** that target hours might not be met, trips or excursions need to be prioritized according to their relationship to PSP outcomes
- **Meaningful Instruction**, relevant to the PSP, will occur every day up to December 20, and until the 187th day of school (in June), when examinations may start. Resources including movies or other media used with students must normally be available on the *Authorized Learning Resources* list, or obtainable through the Education Media Library or Cable in the Classroom.
- **School Advisory Councils and parents** will receive information so they can support their schools, teachers, and children in achieving learning success.

This year, selected schools across the province will track their use of time to provide baseline data for the department and school boards to collaboratively plan and develop direction for future years.

Kids Deconstruct Alcohol Advertising Through New Media Education Program

The revised drug education curriculum supplement for Grades 7-9 Health/PDR (to be field-tested soon) features some activities and content from the Media Awareness Network. "The Target is You" is a series of 10 lessons designed to help young people understand the significant social and psychological influence of messages in alcohol advertising. For more information, please visit <http://209.29.148.33/english/index.cfm>

Tell us how we're doing...and enter your name to win a USB memory device!

Please take a few moments to complete our online survey. Your participation will help us gather information about our services and make changes to serve you better. The survey is available online at: <http://lrl.ednet.ns.ca>

New Resource for CALM

PARTY (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) is an injury prevention initiative designed to help teenagers understand the consequences of risk and injury by allowing them to follow a trauma patient through the health care system.

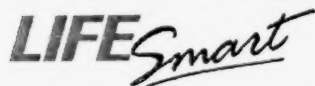
The program is delivered by two trained facilitators (who will be local police, paramedics, nurses, or other health care providers) who use DVD presentations, and a series of interactive exercises. The DVDs and resource materials will be offered in both French and English, and will be available to Nova Scotia schools in the fall of 2005.

PARTY was developed by Emergency Health Services Nova Scotia Trauma Program in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Education, the Dalhousie University School of Health and Human Performance, and Nova Scotia Health Promotion.

Check it out!

The Student Services Division now has four Fact Sheets on the Department of Education web site: Go to <http://www.ednet.ns.ca> and look under Student Services Publications in the Document Depot

- Student Services Fact Sheet: Adaptations—Strategies and Resources
- Student Services Fact Sheet: Inclusion—Supporting all Students
- Student Services Fact Sheet: Enrichment—Challenge for Excellence
- Student Services Fact Sheet: Transition—A Lifelong Process



LifeSmart is an innovative and comprehensive First Aid and CPR training program designed to reach high school students throughout Nova Scotia. LifeSmart enables teachers to bring valuable First Aid and CPR training to the classroom.

Teachers have the opportunity to become nationally certified St. John Ambulance Instructors, free-of-charge. Once certified, teachers enjoy the flexibility of being able to incorporate any level of First Aid and/or CPR training into the curriculum at a time that suits their needs—from single modules (1 hr.) through to Standard First Aid and CPR Level C (20 hrs.).

St. John Ambulance also provides all equipment and instructional materials to the schools free-of-charge. This includes CPR mannequins, first aid practice supplies, instructional videos, textbooks, student activity books, and a teacher's guide. For more information on how to bring this program to your school, please contact: Annette Deagle, Director Community Service St. John Ambulance (902) 463-0013 or 1 (800) 565-5056 adeagle@stjohnambulance.ns.ca

Keep an eye on us!

The Education Media Library's Online Video Catalogue is moving to a new system—all the information is the same, it will just look a little different. For more information, or for assistance in using the new catalogue, please contact us at lrt@ednet.ns.ca or (902)424-2440.

Enhancing Skills Through Professional Development - Racial Equity Policy in Practice

The Education Act, *Learning for Life II: Brighter Futures Together*, along with the Public Schools Program (PSP) and department curriculum guides form the foundation of our philosophical approach and daily practices and articulate our commitment to meeting the needs of all learners. The implementation of the Racial Equity Policy, an overarching multi-year initiative, will enhance teachers' skills so that they can be effective in working with all learners. Collaboration among department, schools, and communities will help us to reach our goals, and professional development is key to this commitment.

In 2004-2005, Racial Equity Policy in-services for all elementary schools across the province focussed on curriculum, assessment, and instructional practices. These sessions provided information and training, support materials, and print resources for use in schools. Action plans were developed which provided the framework for implementation of school-based initiatives. In May or June 2006, an elementary symposium will bring together a sampling of schools which participated in the original 2004 training. The symposium will provide an opportunity to share promising practices from across the province, connect with current research, and explore ways to enhance school/board level initiatives and programming in the area of racial equity.

In November 2005 the Department will be providing similar in-services to all junior high schools across the province. These professional development sessions focus specifically on curriculum, assessment, instructional practices, and learning environments.

For further information contact Sylvia Parris, Multicultural Education Consultant, parrissv@gov.ns.ca or (902)424-5972.

Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services	902-424-3151	acsd@ednet.ns.ca	http://acs.ednet.ns.ca
English Program Services	902-424-8945	eps@ednet.ns.ca	
French Second Language Services	902-424-6646	fls@ednet.ns.ca	
Learning Resources and Technology	902-424-2462	lrt@ednet.ns.ca	http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca
Mi'kmaq Services	902-424-3428	msd@ednet.ns.ca	http://mikmaq-services.ednet.ns.ca
Student Services	902-424-7454	studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca	
Evaluation Services	902-424-7746	testeval@ednet.ns.ca	http://plans.ednet.ns.ca
Senior Executive Director	902-424-5829		
Regional Education Offices	902-424-5799 (Halifax) 902-563-2080 (Sydney) 902-893-5890 (Truro) 902-742-3427 (Yarmouth)		

Nova Scotia Department of Education website: <http://ednet.ns.ca>

